

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
AT WINCHESTER**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                                  ) Case No. 4:24-cr-00015  
  )  
v.    ) District Judge Travis R. McDonough  
  )  
RICHARD J. HUNT    ) Magistrate Judge Christopher H. Steger

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge conducted a plea hearing in this case on January 14, 2025. At the hearing, Defendant entered a plea of guilty to a lesser included offense of Count One of the ten count Indictment. On the basis of the record made at the hearing, the Court finds that Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea; the plea is made knowingly and with full understanding of each of the rights waived by Defendant; it is made voluntarily and free from any force, threats, or promises; Defendant understands the nature of the charges and penalties provided by law; and the plea has a sufficient basis in fact. Acceptance of the plea, adjudication of guilt, acceptance of the Plea Agreement, and imposition of sentence are specifically reserved for the District Judge.

I therefore recommend that the Court: (1) grant Defendant's motion to withdraw his not guilty plea to a lesser included offense of Count One of the ten count Indictment; (2) accept Defendant's guilty plea to a lesser included offense of Count One of the ten count Indictment; (3) adjudicate Defendant guilty of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine (actual) in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846; and (4) order that Defendant remain out of custody subject to the Order Setting Conditions of Release [Doc. 17] pending sentencing or further order of this Court.

The Defendant's sentencing hearing is scheduled before the District Judge on **May 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.**

**ENTER.**

*/s/ Christopher H. Steger*  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**NOTICE TO PARTIES**

You have the right to *de novo* review by the district judge of the foregoing findings. Any application for review must be in writing; must specify the portions of the findings or proceedings objected to; and must be filed and served no later than fourteen (14) days after the plea hearing. Failure to file objections within fourteen days constitutes a waiver of any further right to challenge the plea of guilty in this matter. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b).